

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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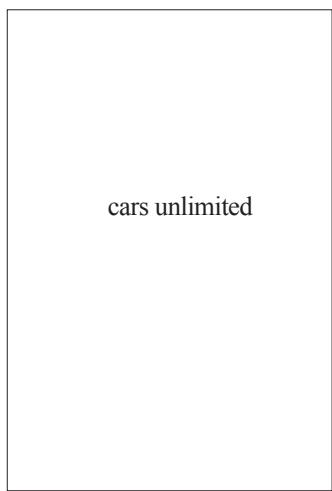
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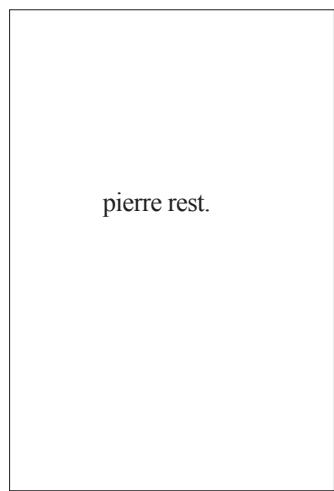
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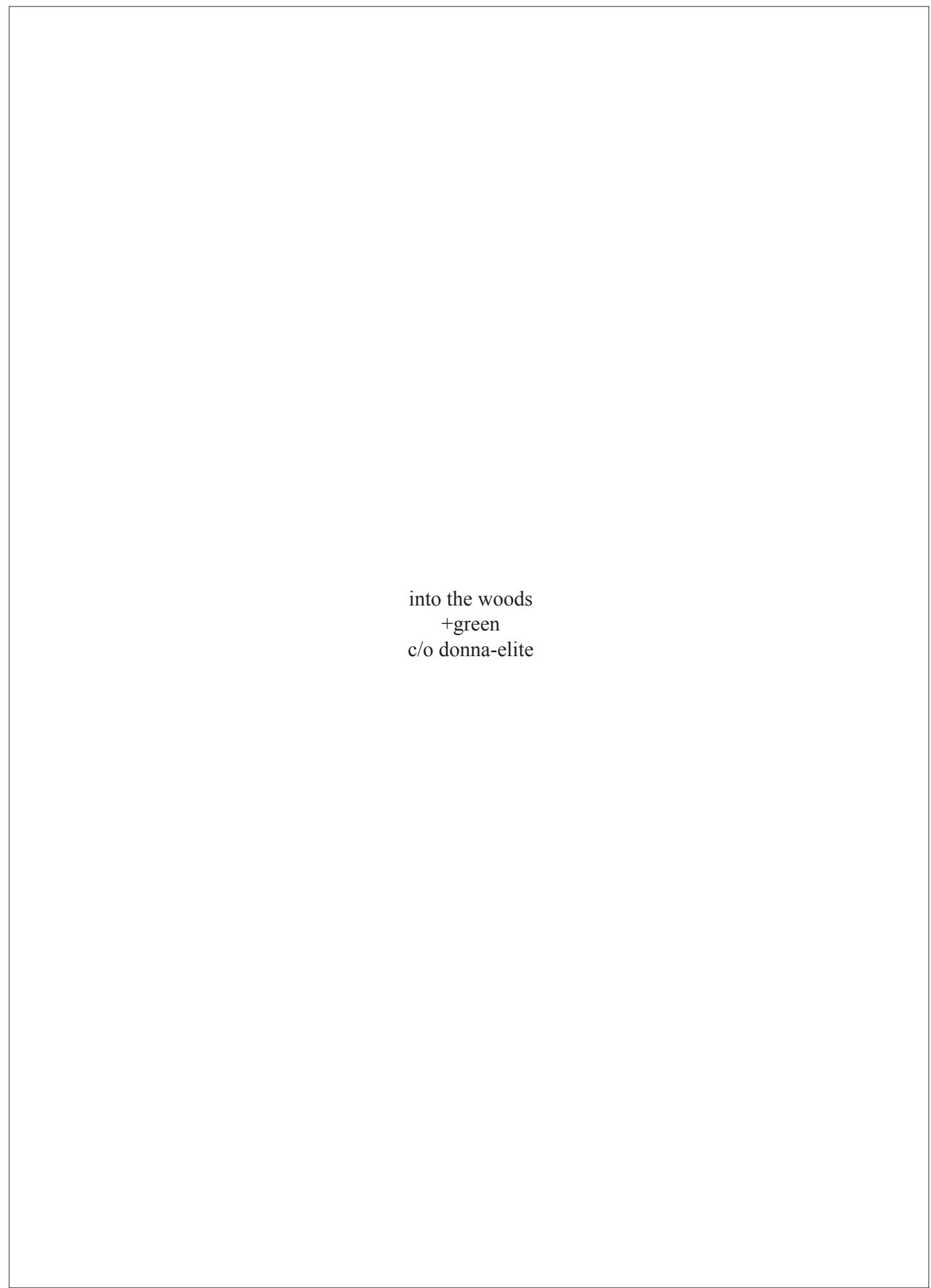
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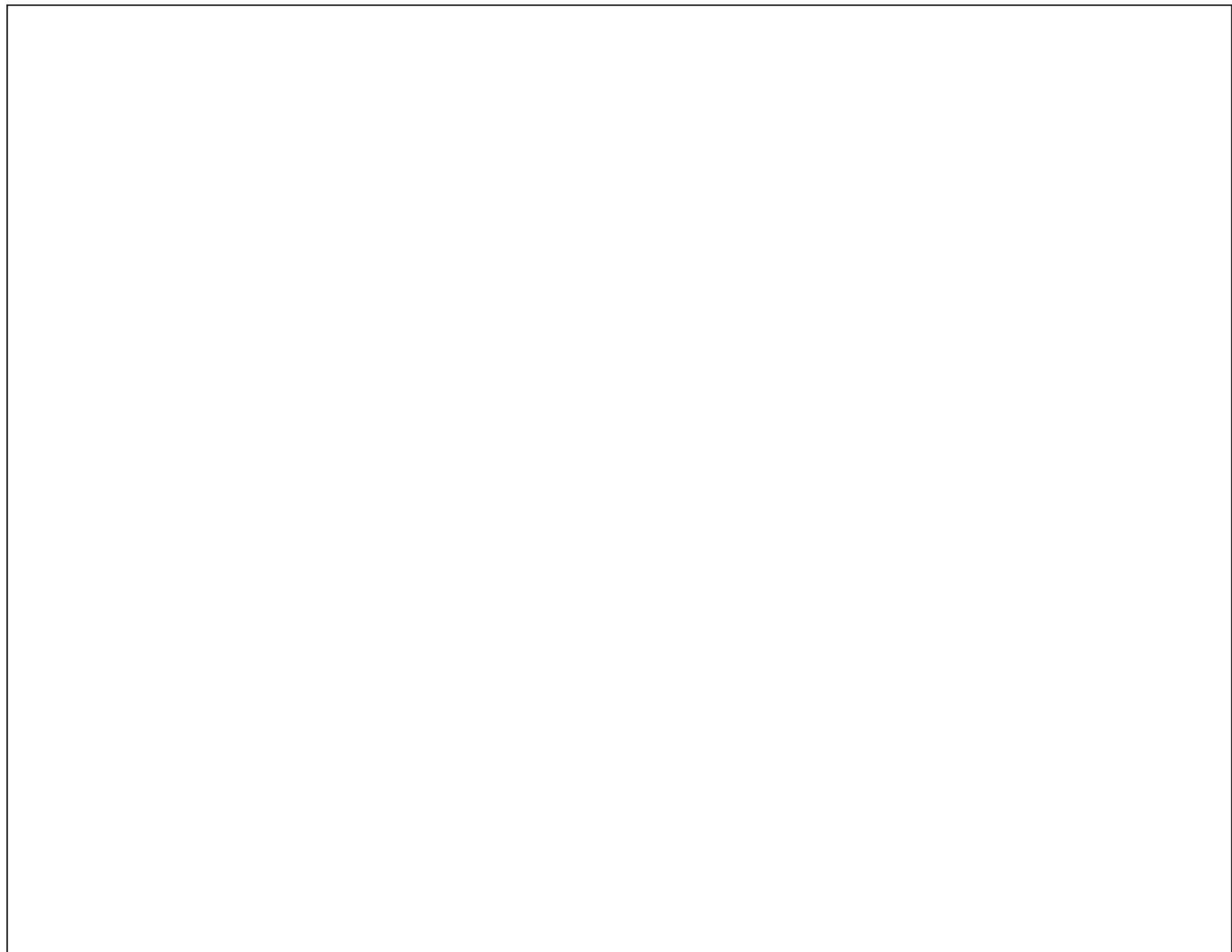


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# Pete A. takes Rota slug problem to USDA

Following up on a request made by the Rota Legislative Delegation, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio met with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials Friday last week to discuss the federal response to the Rota slug problem.

"When I was on Rota in July, I met with Mark Bonin from Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service program and Mayor Benjamin Manglona, and then took a tour to inspect for myself the devastation caused by these slugs. The island's agricultural industry is at stake, and it is obvious that this problem must be addressed and soon," said Tenorio.

Tenorio met with Robert Spaide, the acting assistant deputy administrator

for the Pest Detection and Management Programs.

"My mission was two-fold: to make sure that the management in the USDA knew of the problem, and to begin the process of establishing an agricultural inspection and treatment center in the CNMI to keep other invasive species out of our islands and to facilitate the entry of beneficial plants into the CNMI," he added.

Bonin and his colleagues at NMC have received a USDA grant to conduct a slug and snail survey as a first step in the process of suppressing the slugs.

"Mr. Spaide is very aware of the problem, and assured me that the department is concerned. Once the survey and as-

essment are finished, USDA will work closely with NMC and the Agricultural Research Service to devise a plan of action to eradicate this pest. We must find a method to deal with the slugs that does not cause other problems and prevents its spread to other islands in the CNMI," said Tenorio.

He said he is "very impressed" with the experts at NMC and expressed assurance that, through their dedication, "this problem will be resolved in time."

However the challenge of establishing agricultural and biological inspection stations allowing the CNMI to develop its agricultural and botanical products for export, facilitating the entry of economically useful plants into

the CNMI, and ensuring that no other invasive and potentially destructive species find their way into the islands will be his and other elected officials' responsibility, Tenorio added.

The meeting had been requested by



## Saipan golfer Alex Aquiningoc honored

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently adopted a resolution congratulating golfer Alex Aquiningoc for shooting a hole-in-one at the 9th Saipan Golf Tournament of Champions held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort in July.

Aquiningoc achieved the rare feat on July 31, 2004, winning for himself a brand new 2005 Ford Escape, and a trip to Hong Kong and the Philippines.

The Saipan Golf Tournament of Champions was held on July 31 and Aug. 1 this year, with over \$2 million dollars worth of prizes donated by several local businesses. The 2005 Ford Escape prize was donated by Joeten Motors, while the trip to Hong Kong

and the Philippines was donated by Continental Airlines.

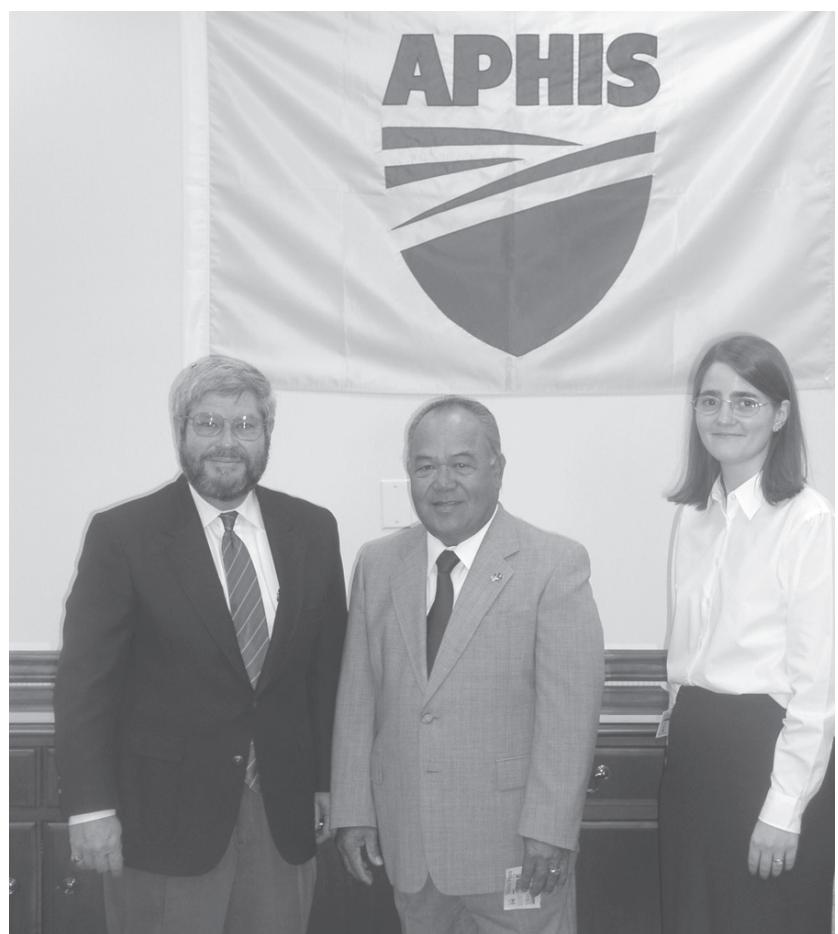
A total of 295 players showed up on Saturday's opening but only 277 finished the tournament on Sunday. Among them were Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente; Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio; Rep. Oscar M. Babauta; Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex A. Sablan; Saipan Rotary Club president Harry Blalock; and Saipan Garment Manufacture Association executive director and Saipan Chamber of Commerce vice president Richard Pierce.

The resolution said that in golf, "it is said that it is not how you drive but how you arrive."

"Aquiningoc was at the right time, at the right stand, at the right place, at the right distance, at the right drive when his magnificent shot rolled at the right direction for and into the 17th hole cup for a hole-in-one shot. The members of the municipal council and the people of the CNMI join the players and the officials of the 2004 Saipan Golf Tournament of Champions in extending a sincere and heartfelt recognition and congratulation to Aquiningoc for his magnificent [shot]," the resolution said.

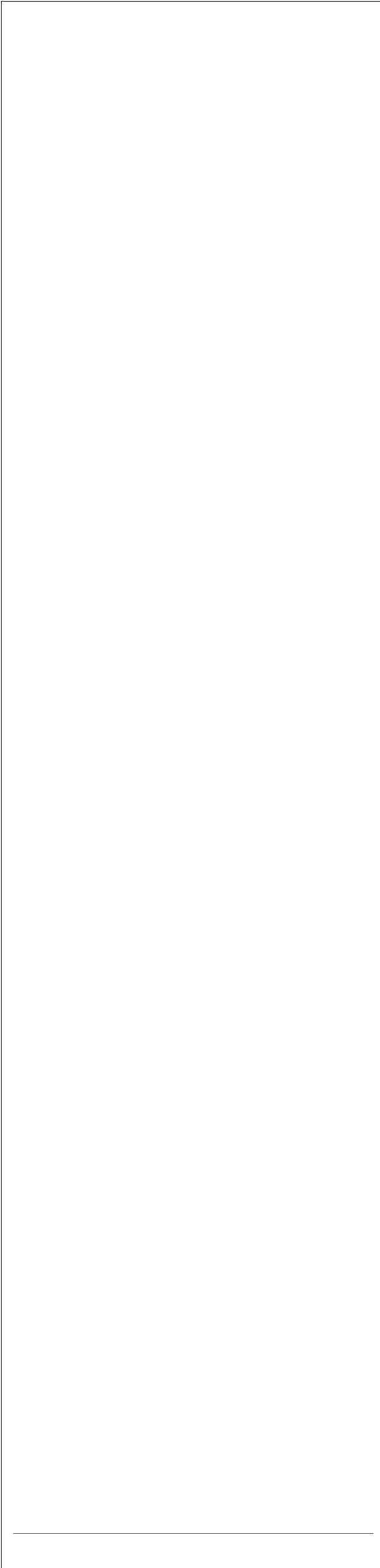
The resolution was certified by municipal council chair Gregorio V. Deleon Guerrero and vice chair David A. Indalecio and attested by secretary Antonia M. Tudela.

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio with Susan McAuley and Robert Spaide from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



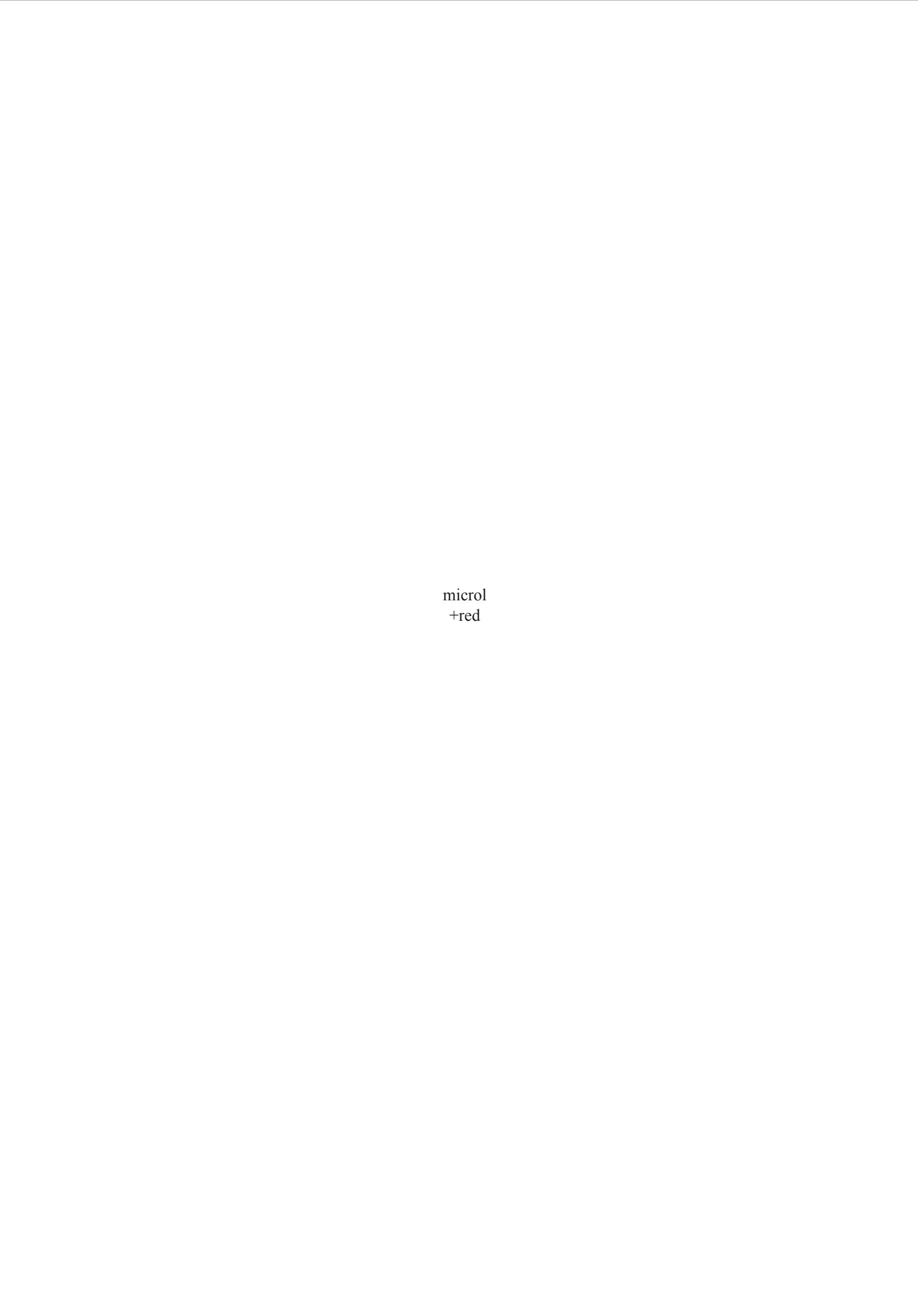
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# Business

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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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## EDITORIAL

### Millions lost in cyberspace

**T**ucked into the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was a little-known program called the "e-rate," setting up a tax that has cost consumers and phone companies upward of \$2 billion a year. What has that money bought? A rudderless program riddled with fraud and waste.

The e-rate tax is aimed at providing schools and libraries with Internet access. The program, championed by Al Gore when he was vice president, was supposed to help schools allow low-income students to close the "digital divide" and gain new social and economic opportunities. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) began raising questions about it during a hearing on the program six years ago. Since then, its problems have become more apparent. The e-rate fund has distributed \$12 billion over six years, and estimates place the amount wasted in the billions. Because of lack of oversight, it's impossible to know the extent of the losses.

During a recent House hearing, legislators documented some of the lapses. They showed, for instance, how most of the \$101 million in e-rate funds spent in Puerto Rico went to dubious purchases, such as 73,000 wireless connection cards for individual computers. The cards, purchased at more than \$300 apiece five years ago, have grown obsolete in a warehouse outside San Juan. Most Puerto Rican children still access the Internet through dial-up modems on roughly two computers per school.

Other rural projects cited by supporters as successes have enormous per-pupil costs. A conflict of interest is built into the program's core: Its dollars are doled out by a nonprofit corporation run by telecommunications service providers whose businesses benefit from the money. They are barely overseen by the Federal Communications Commission.

Legislators are planning more hearings after the Fourth of July recess, and the e-rate program will come up for congressional reauthorization next year. Its overall success or failure has never even been measured. Unless the schools and libraries that want it renewed can help make the program accountable, there's not much point in continuing it.

The FCC should take over from the board and put e-rate on probation. Grant applicants should have to submit plans that use proven technologies in cost-effective ways. Surfing the Internet isn't enough.

Los Angeles Times

### How to rescue sick foreign states

By SEBASTIAN MALLABY

The Washington Post

**H**alf a decade ago, in the wake of the emerging-market crisis that spread from East Asia to Russia to Brazil, the policy circuit buzzed with proposals to reform international finance. Bright ideas were mooted—by think tanks, market sages and a high-profile congressional commission—and in 2001 the incoming Bush team declared itself "impatient" with the status quo it had inherited. But the upshot of this brainstorming was modest, incremental change. The grand reformist talk only weakened confidence in the existing system while doing little to improve it.

Today we have a new version of this phenomenon. The big buzz right now surrounds post-conflict reconstruction: Both Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that we aren't good at it. At least three bits of legislation on this topic are floating around Congress; the State Department is mulling schemes to strengthen its response; the Pentagon promises to train African peacekeepers. The Center for Global Development recently produced a report on conflict and failed states, and the Council on Foreign Relations has a high-level task force examining the same challenge.

Some of the new thinking is quite radical. The report from the Center for Global Development, for example, advocates a cabinet-level department in the U.S. government to handle strategy toward developing countries. It calls for an initiative to anticipate civil wars so that preventive action can displace expensive remedial efforts; the British government is implementing a version of this policy. Others advocate a new reconstruction trust fund, which would get around the need to pass the hat when a crisis demands urgent intervention.

Much of this sounds good, and I've done my bit in the past to press versions of this agenda. But it's hard to escape the feeling that we're reliving the debate over emerging markets, when ambitious ideas—an international bankruptcy court, an early-warning system for crises, an expanded International Monetary Fund that could act as a global lender of last resort—briefly lit the sky and then rapidly fizzled.

Some of the current post-conflict proposals should be ruled out on grounds of political implausibility. After the bureaucratic teething problems of the Department of Homeland Security, is it realistic to propose another cabinet-level agency? Given the trouble of raising money for existing international programs—the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for example, seems likely

to get a fraction of the money it is asking for in this year's appeal—what is the likelihood that a post-conflict trust fund would attract serious cash from donors? Would the French or German government donate money to such a fund, knowing that the money might be spent on a future crisis that it deemed unworthy, such as cleaning up after the Bush administration in Iraq? Unlikely.

Other proposals are politically easy but practically unhelpful. Early-warning, for example, sounds good, and it's not hard to create a new unit in the State Department to monitor leading indicators of conflict. But civil conflicts, like financial crises, are hard to predict with any certainty, and in any case the private sector is already trying. In the financial world, you can consult a credit-rating agency or an investment bank. In the political world, you can read the excellent reports from the International Crisis Group.

Moreover, suppose you identify a list of 20 tense countries where civil war looks likely. What do you do about it? The central finding in development theory in the past decade is that you probably could not do anything. Foreign aid does not work in dysfunctional countries, where the threat of conflict looms; it works only in countries that are well run, which is why the Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Account will funnel cash to a short list of nations that are poor yet governed competently. If the talk of "conflict prevention" gets too much traction, this virtuous selectivity may be undone. Aid will be diverted to corrupt, autocratic environments that seem headed for civil war. It will probably be wasted.

Rather than reaching for a radical new fix, the best approach to the problem of failed states is to nurture the institutions that we have already. You want a post-conflict trust fund? Well, you already have the World Bank, whose subsidized loans can be used to reconstruct countries—why not just expand it? You want an institution that can parachute into a broken country and rebuild everything from the judicial system to the electricity grid to the central bank? Well, the World Bank can do that too, and did in Bosnia—again, why not give it more resources? You want an institution that can mobilize peacekeepers and train new indigenous armies? You already have the United Nations and NATO, so why not bolster them before you dream up a third option?

Above all, don't lose sight of past experience. Exactly 60 years ago, at the Bretton Woods conference in July 1944, the United States and its allies created the World Bank, believing (as Franklin Roosevelt told the delegates) that poverty and hopelessness threatened the world's stability. Six decades later, we've learned some lessons about what works and what doesn't in failed and failing states. Ignoring that history will condemn us to relive it.

# Blind rush toward AIDS therapy may prove disastrous

By SALLY SATEL

Special to the Los Angeles Times

The World Health Organization is racing to get medication to millions of people infected with HIV/AIDS. The organization's "3 by 5 plan"—which aims to treat 3 million people, mostly Africans, by the end of 2005—is an ambitious one. But maybe WHO should slow down before it causes harm to those it seeks to aid.

A red flag went up last month when WHO announced that two medications on its list of approved HIV drugs did not meet quality standards. The drugs were antiretrovirals made by Cipla, an Indian manufacturer whose major business is copying pharmaceuticals invented and patented by other companies, mainly in the United States.

The problem? The raw data from tests conducted by an independent company (hired by Cipla) to evaluate two of Cipla's HIV drugs—drugs that WHO endorsed—failed to prove that those drugs would deliver as much medication to a person's system as the gold-standard patented form of the pills.

In the case of HIV/AIDS medications, low concentrations in blood and tissues make it harder to keep the virus from multiplying and creating mutant forms, some of which will no longer respond to medication. When these mutated forms multiply within an individual or are transmitted to another person, resistant strains spread and the disease becomes harder to contain.

Since the two Cipla-made drugs were approved by WHO in 2002 and 2003, thousands of Africans have taken them. The longer patients are exposed to inadequate doses, the greater the chance for drug-resistant HIV strains to develop.

To what extent has this already happened? Who will contact these individuals and tell them to discontinue the medications? And what medications will they take in place of these drugs?

How WHO will handle this problem is not the only question the organization faces. Some global health experts also worry that it is promoting a questionable treatment in the form of a pill called Triomune, also made by Cipla, as its first-line medication in the "3 by 5" initiative.

Triomune contains three standard HIV drug compounds (lamivudine, stavudine and nevirapine), each at a fixed dose and combined together in one pill. WHO officials say a combination pill is easier to distribute and more convenient for users. Many Western HIV/AIDS patients take up to 20 pills over the course of the day, so ease of administration is no small matter.

But there are potential problems. WHO does not test drugs, and Triomune has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration because Cipla has not submitted it. This is especially puzzling in light of the FDA's recently announced intention to expedite approval of fixed-dose antiretrovirals made by foreign drug companies.

Many health experts are rightly skeptical of a one-size-fits-all approach to a complex disease that doctors in the West routinely treat with a flexible armament of drugs, adjusted to each patient according to that individual's needs.

Specific drugs are switched often or their dosage strengths adjusted depending on side effects, progress of the disease and other medical problems the patient suffers.

A doctor's freedom to custom-tailor a cocktail is essential so that the resulting medicine does not interact badly with other drugs or exacerbate a particular medical condition also suffered.

In rural Africa, where sophisticated medical care is lacking, a calculable percentage of patients will become very sick or even die from the nevirapine component of this three-in-one drug. Thus the dilemma: the need to balance drug-related deaths and illness from using Triomune against the numbers of people who would go untreated altogether if aid agencies adopted a flexible but more expensive strategy.

As attention turns to the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, next month, WHO must regain the world's confidence and not foist unproven drug therapies on the world's poor and sick.

Satel, a physician, is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

# NATO's 'myth' in Afghanistan

By JACKSON DIEHL

The Washington Post

A couple of years ago, when the Bush administration's unilateralists were still riding high, a senior official at the Pentagon told me the mocking slogan for the trans-Atlantic alliance then circulating around his building went as follows: "NATO—keep the myth alive!" No doubt he never imagined that in the run-up to the 2004 election, his boss would be trying to do just that—only without the sarcasm.

"I don't know when in the history of the alliance we've seen so many successes," a newly enthusiastic Donald Rumsfeld told the press traveling with him last week to the NATO summit in Istanbul. He and other administration officials extolled NATO's decision to help train Iraqi security forces and its commitment of more troops to Afghanistan. They echoed President Bush's claim that the feuding about Iraq that nearly destroyed the alliance last year was over. "We got everything we wanted," one White House official said.

Such rhetoric is a logical response to John Kerry's tactic of making Bush's mismanagement of NATO, and its consequences in Iraq, a central part of his argument to voters. It is even partly true—at least in the sense that the Bush administration is now eager to work with the allies in Iraq and Afghanistan, in contrast to the stiff-arm Rumsfeld delivered to the Europeans hoping to join the first offensive against the Taliban in the fall of 2001.

The sad part is that, behind all the spin, the old Pentagon gibe is looking more and more apt. Having expanded to include most of Central Europe, and resolved to address the threats of the 21st century, America's most important international partnership is on the brink of a crippling failure, one that would leave a President Kerry as well as a second-term Bush with little to work with.

The threat lies not in Iraq—where continued trans-Atlantic discord in fact makes a full-blown NATO operation impossible—but in Afghanistan, which NATO long ago adopted as a major ongoing mission. Last year the allies resolved to expand a modest peacekeeping force in Kabul to provincial centers around the country, an operation critical to bolstering the authority of the weak pro-Western government and making possible the national elections planned for this year.

Yet, after months and months of haggling, European governments were only barely able to commit at Istanbul to staffing three new provincial centers, each with a couple of hundred troops. The cup-rattling forced on Secretary General Jaap de

## Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

## Let's get on with our lives

I greatly appreciated Tina Sablan's letters to the editor (June 29th and April 7th) on gay rights. It was most unfortunate that in her words she "did not get a chance to speak, although I tried" at the hearing on Initiative 14-3, which aims to limit marriage to people of opposite sexes.

Sean Frink testified at the hearing that many young people are against House Speaker Fitial's Initiative 14-3 and, according to her June 29th letter, Ms. Sablan is one of them. It is unfortunate she didn't get a chance to speak.

Like Ms. Sablan, I was confused by Rep. Oscar Babauta's question at the hearing on what the law would do should Tom and Harry adopt an infant who would die without breast milk. Then he asked what if Mary and Jane adopted and had the same situation. I don't know why Mr. Babauta asked such questions, but whether a same sex-couple or heterosexual couple adopts, both would be in the same situation and require milk from an outside source. Examples of similarities between same-sex and heterosexual couples could go on and on. Both wanting life with the one they love. No difference.

Like Ms. Sablan, I was also confused by a woman's claim that people choose to be gay. This was the first time I have heard

Hoop Scheffer was humiliating: With 26 nations and 5 million men in arms to draw on, Scheffer struggled to obtain just three helicopters for the Afghan operation.

A desperate appeal for more help by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to the Istanbul summit essentially went unanswered. A promise was made to supply a couple of thousand more troops at the time of the elections, but no one knows where they will come from. At best, NATO will have 8,400 troops under its command in Afghanistan by the fall, or about a fifth of the number it dispatched to tiny Kosovo in 1999. The United States has some 14,000 troops in the country, but none are under NATO's command.

It now looks possible that the Afghan elections will be postponed because of lack of security. If so, NATO will get much of the blame—and the consequences for the alliance's cohesion may be dire. "Afghanistan is the litmus test for NATO's new mission," says a European ambassador in Washington. "If we fail in Afghanistan we might as well fold up and go home, because no one will take us seriously after that."

The mess points to the realities behind the happy talk from Istanbul. Though it now extols NATO rhetorically, the Pentagon's practical approach to it hasn't changed: No American troops have been pledged to the NATO Afghan mission, and proposals to bring the U.S. forces already there under NATO's umbrella have gone nowhere. European governments doubt that Bush's conversion to multilateralism is real—and consequently have little appetite for an operation that appears thankless as well as dangerous and expensive.

"The allies need more reassurance," the European ambassador told me. "We want to be assured that what we're now seeing is not multilateralism growing out of desperation—because desperate multilateralism is not effective multilateralism."

Yet, even if the Europeans were more enthusiastic, they might have little to contribute. Germany, the largest country in the European Union, has 270,000 soldiers in its army—yet its commanders maintain that no more than about 10,000 can be deployed at any one time. No matter the politics, the German Parliament is unlikely to authorize an increase in the current ceiling of 2,300 troops for Afghanistan. And Germany is the largest contributor to the NATO operation—France, which has never liked the idea of NATO operations outside of Europe, has only 800 soldiers there.

For now, Bush's interest lies in glossing over this trouble. Kerry's pitch is that he can make it go away with a new, alliance-centered foreign policy. Both are, in effect, counting on the myth's staying alive—at least until November.

such. My many gay friends have all said they knew early on they felt attracted to one of their same sex. This, in spite of all their parents', peers' and society's expectations that they date and marry one of opposite sex. Initiative 14-3 is just one example! Why would anyone "choose" to be gay—often subject to ridicule and even persecution? Death under some governments.

I have heard so many stories of widespread infidelity in marriage, incest, children born outside wedlock and teen pregnancies in Saipan. These have been heterosexual, not homosexual related. My gay friends have been faithful to their partners, perhaps because they had to work so hard to be with the one they love. Again, just look at Initiative 14-3!

Let's attack problems like flagrant unfaithfulness in marriage, domestic violence, incest, children born outside wedlock, teen pregnancy, insufficient school textbooks, unemployment, lack of public transportation, and let people marry the one of their choice. Let them get on with their lives. And, everyone else should get on with theirs.

## Millie Carroll

Capitol Hill

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# Island Snapshots

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# Nation



SHELL

# World



# WWII Veterans Remember

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## Life & Style

# Why men don't phone: It's not him, it's you

By ROXANNE ROBERTS  
THE WASHINGTON POST

It was a great date. He promised to call. He never called.

The average single woman will stare at the phone, willing it to ring. A long list of possibilities noisily circle through her brain, like a hamster on an exercise wheel: He lost my number. He's really busy. He's intimidated. I talked too much, I drank too much. I slept with him. I didn't sleep with him....@

No, no, no. None of the above. The answer, according to author Greg Behrendt, is that he's not really interested.

Doesn't matter why. No ego-soothing platitudes. No pop psychology. No cute relationship tricks. He's just not that into you. The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable.

The tough talk is tough love for women from Behrendt, who strips away all the excuses for men (why he didn't call, isn't faithful, disappears, won't commit, etc., etc.) in the new book, "He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys," so women will stop wasting their time on the wrong guy.

The Los Angeles comedian was a bachelor for two decades before settling down. By his own admission, he was guilty of plenty of bad dating behavior—which made him a perfect consultant to the hit HBO series "Sex and the City." For the last three seasons, Behrendt advised the show's all-female writing staff, sitting in on scriptwriting sessions and providing the "straight male" feedback.

"The biggest lie of all is 'It's not you'—because you are the person I'm in the relationship with. The truth is, 'It is you, and I'm not into you,'" says Behrendt, 41, now a happily married father of a 2-year-old daughter.

About 18 months ago, Behrendt listened to the female writers ("All sharp, all attractive, couldn't have more going for themselves," he says) discuss a guy who had gone out with one of them, kissed her, then declined to come up to her apartment because he had an early meeting. No call the next day, but he sent an e-mail a week later.

The women all reassured her that she was fabulous and that he must be scared or really busy. Behrendt knew no morning meeting will keep an attracted man from a midnight mambo. "My first thought was, 'I don't care if I'm flying the space shuttle tomorrow, I'm coming up.'"

He broke the news: The guy wasn't into her.

The writers gasped. "We were horrified," remembers Liz Tuccillo. "It was like we were all punched in the stomach. Then we started laughing." The cruel reality descended on the room. Each woman grilled Behrendt about her own relationship, and each time he shot down all the sympathetic excuses. The bottom line: If these men were truly interested, they would call, be faithful, commit, and more. It was just common sense to him, but a revelation—like cracking an ancient, secret code—to the women.

There's plenty of dating advice, mostly for women trying to deconstruct the hearts of men. The premise is that men are complicated, emotionally stunted creatures incapable of direct action. And so women spend years obsessing with understanding girlfriends, wildly hoping that deep down he's really in love and wants to be with them. Even if he doesn't pick up the phone.

People always want to know, "What happened?" Nothing happened, says Nancy Kirsch, senior vice president of It's Just Lunch international dating service. "Ultimately, chemistry is impossible to predict. That's what it boils down to.

"I hate to think that someone thinks they did something wrong or something not right enough on a date. That's just not the case." But women, she says, are much more prone to second-guessing than men. "We want to try to figure it out. We want to fix it." And they so want to believe men are telling the truth.

Behrendt believes men would rather chew off their arms than admit the truth. Why do they lie? Not just lie, but kiss and compliment and generally mess with women's heads rather than say, "I'm just not that into you"? He thinks it's fear of confrontation. "I can't even tell you why. Men are afraid of women being upset or yelling. In a fight with a guy, you know what it is: It gets verbal, then it gets physical. With a woman, you don't know where it's going to go, and you know it can't and shouldn't get physical."

Relationship correspondent Jon Platner, in a column on AskMen.com called How to Reject the Girl You Don't Want, concludes that honesty can make women defensive and confrontational. "She may also ask you countless questions about what she did wrong, a situation you definitely don't want to be stuck in," he writes.

He prefers Option 2: Give her gradual hints such as stop returning her calls, saying you just got out of a relationship and are hesitant to leap into another one, or are too busy with your career. Says Platner: "This is ideal because it ends the relationship without you having to outright reject her. But even if she's

slow to get the hint and it still comes down to you spelling it out, at least you will have softened the blow."

So it's better to lie? Or not call? Or just disappear? Well, yeah.

Behrendt admits he was one of those guys. He doesn't remember cheating on girlfriends, but "other than that, you can mark me down as all of them." That is, until he met his wife, Amiira, six years ago. He was really, really into her from the very start.

"It was like being brought up from the minors to the majors," he says. "She was just 'it.' I was able to envision a future with her almost immediately."

She operated at a certain level, and he had to step up to that level. "I really had to be a better man, all the way around, to be with her," he says. "Other women in other relationships would suggest changes that I wasn't willing to make."

When a guy is truly interested in a woman, he pursues her. That's the way it's always been, he says, and equality hasn't changed it. And so Behrendt strips away the excuses:

If a man is into you, he'll ask you out. (In fact, Behrendt believes no woman should ask out a man who hasn't asked her out first.) He will call, no matter how busy, because you'll be a bright spot in his day. He will want to have sex with you, and will stop having sex with other women. He will want to be with you when he's sober, not just to party. If he's really, really into you he'll want to marry you. He's not into you if he's breaking up with you, or disappearing with no explanation, or married to someone else, or abusive.

There are exceptions to every rule, he says, but he really wants you to ignore them. You might be wonderful, but many wonderful women are in relationships with men who don't call, don't bother, don't care. It's wiser, he says, to assume the worst: You're the rule. He's not that into you, so get out and find someone who is.

"I'm hoping this starts a revolution that gets everyone to step up and behave better," he says. "I want women to honor themselves, and I want men to honor women."

marpac  
+red

# Musicians honor Charles on tribute album

By CHELSEA J. CARTER  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It was a quiet moment in a recording studio between two old friends—the genius of soul and the king of blues.

Ray Charles and B.B. King were readying to record a bluesy number that married one's piano playing with the other's guitar picking when they took a few minutes to catch up.

"He seemed to be reminiscing a bit. I remember he said 'If we had known we were going to live this long, we would have taken better care of ourselves,'" King told The Associated Press during a recent interview. "I told him 'You bet.'"

It was the last time they would talk—or perform—together. Charles died a short time later of acute liver disease.

Their song, "Sinner's Prayer," a plea to God to forgive their trespasses, captures what neither could have known. It's one of 12 star-studded pairings on "Genius Loves Company," Charles' final album being released posthu-

mously Tuesday by Concord Records and Hear Music.

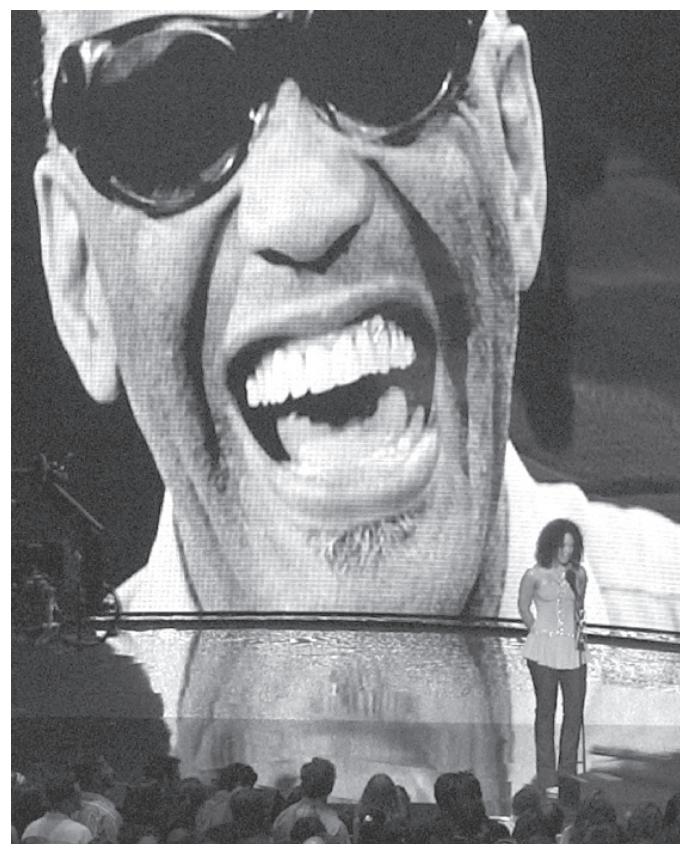
"We wanted to make a record that would bring him back into the spotlight," said producer John Burk, who worked with Charles on the duets album. "The fact that it's his last record is a very sad thing for the music world."

Much like Charles' career, "Genius Loves Company" spans soul, rock 'n' roll, R&B, country, jazz and blues—and includes such guest stars as Norah Jones, Diana Krall and Johnny Mathis as well as King.

"Some of the songs I have been playing for years. Some were all-time favorites of mine that I'd never recorded. Others were songs by artists that I really liked," Charles said before his death.

He chose the artists he worked with based on either previous pairings, such as King, and those whose work he enjoyed but had never met, Burk said.

For example, Charles was "so turned on" to the idea of recording with Bonnie Raitt, Burk said he was sure the two must have known each other. But Raitt,



Musician Alicia Keys leads a tribute to the late Ray Charles, during the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004.

who says her own music was influenced by the way Charles

blended blues and country, met Charles for the first time in the

studio the day they recorded "Do I Ever Cross Your Mind," a bitter-sweet love song that Charles first recorded in the 1980s.

"Rockets went off," she told the AP. "I could have sung 'Row, row, row your boat' with him and been thrilled."

For other artists, it was the chance to work with an old friend.

Willie Nelson and Charles recorded Frank Sinatra's "It Was a Very Good Year." Gladys Knight and Charles, who recorded together several times, sang "Heaven Help Us All."

The only non-studio production on the album is Van Morrison's "Crazy Love." When Charles flew to New York to celebrate Morrison's induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the two performed the song live.

Burk said the most emotional moment came between Charles and Elton John as the two recorded John's "Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word." It was the last song recorded for the album and the last one Charles ever sang, Burk said.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the recording booth," Burk said. "It's

a very sad song, and there was just this emotion in the air."

During the recording of the album, Charles' health was deteriorating rapidly after undergoing hip surgery and being diagnosed with a failing liver.

"He didn't really say anything to anybody about it. He didn't complain," Burk said. "It never really became an obstacle."

In fact, during the recording sessions, Charles maintained his legendary focus. Known for demanding excellence, he held to that standard during the making of "Genius Loves Company."

"His professionalism and his attention and focus were amazing," Raitt said. "I just think he was on it. That's what musicians call it, being on it."

King, who broke down while singing at Charles' funeral, said he hopes the album will cross generations and genres.

"You know, he's one of a kind, doing what he did and how he did it," he said. "Ray started before some of these kids were born. I hope they will take the memory of a great guy that has done so much great work."

## Jackson garners 7 CMA nominations

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Alan Jackson pulled in seven nominations, the most of the year, from the Country Music Association Monday, including entertainer of the year and male vocalist.

Jackson's nominations also include single of the year and song of the year for "Remember When," video of the year for "Remember When" and for his duet with Jimmy Buffett, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," and musical event of the year for collaborating on a remake of the Hank Williams' tune "Hey, Good Lookin."



Jackson

Toby Keith has six nominations including album of the year for "Shock'N Y'all," single and video of the year for "I Love This Bar," musical event for "Hey, Good Lookin,'" male vocalist of the year and entertainer of the year.

The other best album nominees are Brad Paisley for "Mud on the Tires," Brooks & Dunn for "Red Dirt Road," Kenny Chesney for "When the Sun Goes Down" and newcomer Gretchen Wilson for "Here for the Party."

Wilson's first single, the No. 1 hit "Redneck Woman," was nominated for three awards, single, song and music video of the year. She also was nominated for the Horizon award, which honors the top new act.

"I think it's incredible considering no one knew who I was last year at this time," Wilson said. "This has been my dream since I was a little girl."

Other artists with five nomi-

nations included Chesney and Alison Krauss.

"Country music is making waves in 2004 and this list of outstanding nominees is one of the reasons why," CMA Executive Director Ed Benson said in a statement. "These talented performers, musicians, songwriters and producers demonstrate the artistic depth and creativity driving the burgeoning growth of our format in the past year. It is an exciting time for country music and the 2004 CMA awards will definitely reflect that in November."

Krauss was nominated for female vocalist of the year. Other nominees include Terri Clark, Sara Evans, Martina McBride and Reba McEntire.

CBS will broadcast the 38th annual CMA awards show, hosted by Brooks & Dunn, live from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House on Nov. 9.

Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, who helped announce some of the nominations on CBS' "The Early Show," was selected for induction into the Country Hall of Fame.

"What a dirty trick," he said, obviously surprised to hear his name read.

"I guess it means I'm old," he said of the nomination that will put his name in the hall with Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings. Kristofferson has written hits such as "Help Me Make it Through the Night," "Me and Bobby McGee" and "Sunday Morning Coming Down," and his work has been recorded by more than 450 artists.

## Yellowcard swimming in 'Ocean' success

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Yellowcard lead singer Ryan Key is interrupted with news. "We're doing laundry today? Yea!" he says. After weeks on the road as one of the headlining acts of the hugely successful Vans Warped Tour, it's the simple things—laundry, beds and hot food—Key and his fellow band members enthusiastically look forward to.

"Sorry about that. That was important to know," Key apologizes. "You don't know when you're going to get a chance to do laundry again."

Those chances have been infrequent for Yellowcard, the Los Angeles-based pop-punk rock band that's experiencing multiplatinum success with their major label debut "Ocean Avenue." Now that the Warped Tour has wrapped up, they're heading to Miami to play at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards. Then they strike out on their own national tour.

"It just keeps getting crazier and cooler," Key says in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Days earlier, Key and his bandmates sat on a bench within earshot of the Warped Tour's stop in New York.

"We're in a great mood," said violinist Sean Mackin, 25. "We're having a great time right now. What more can you ask?"

Not much. The band's first single, "Way Away," can be heard on Fox's "The O.C." and last year's Madden NFL video game. Their follow-up single "Ocean Avenue" broke Billboard's Top 10 and earned them a VMA best new artist nomination.

"We never expected to this well. We never expected to have a song that hit the Top 40. That's super high for a little band like us," Key said.

There's little that's little about Yellowcard, a band that took its name from a soccer penalty call that has become slang for "party foul." From their big, punk-inspired sound to the infusion of a violin as a rhythm instrument

play in a club in front of 250

people with no record out, they had many of the things you look for when you are make a record with a band—good songs, good players," Capitol Records President Andrew Slater tell the AP.

"Ocean Avenue" was released in July 2003 but gained steam in January when they broke into the Top 40.

Although the band walks the pop-punk walk—from their clothing to their language, the album is a departure from punk music typified with angry lyrics.

"We are not the rock star band," Key says. "There is not a whole lot of glitz and glam when it comes to Yellowcard."

In fact, there seems to be an unusual amount of thought when it comes to the band and its approach to music.

"They are all kind of positive and affirmative songs," Key said.

During their recent performance at Randall's Island, a woman whose husband was killed in Iraq joined the band on stage during their performance of "Believe," a song written in honor of the life and death decisions made by police and firefighters on Sept. 11.

Thousands sang along with the lyrics:

"Think about the love inside the strength of the heart,

Think about the heroes saving life in the dark,

Climbing higher through the fire

Time was running out

Never knowing you weren't going to be coming down alive,

But you still came back for me,

You were strong and you believed."



Members of the group Yellowcard, from left, Pete Moseley, Longineu Parsons, Ben Harper, Ryan Key and Sean Mackin, pose for a photograph at the Vans Warped Tour 2004 on Randall's Island in New York, Aug. 7, 2004.

in a genre that is anything but soothing to the ear. Blender magazine described their major label debut album as "Stratocaster meets Stradivarius."

Yellowcard formed in 1997 in Jacksonville, Fla., at a performing arts high school with Mackin, guitarist Ben Harper and drummer Longineu Parsons.

Key, who was not an original band member, dropped out of college after about a year and moved to California but returned a short time later.

Harper went through a hip-hop phase. Moseley had played with pop-punk's Inspection 12.

With a handful of songs in hand, Yellowcard headed to California's San Fernando Valley in early 2001, releasing "One For The Kids" on Lobster Records, an independent label. They followed it up a year later with "The Underdog EP" on Fueled by Ramen Records.

Building a local following, the band soon caught the interest of Capitol Records.

"Initially, when I saw them

## Jimmy Smits to join cast of 'West Wing'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—He's played a Los Angeles lawyer and a New York detective. Now, Jimmy Smits is going to Washington—or more specifically, the cast of the "The West Wing"—as a congressman.

Smits' character, a three-term congressman from Houston, might fill the Oval Office that will eventually be left empty by fictional second-term President Josiah Bartlet, played by Martin Sheen.

Smits' character will have "presidential aspirations," NBC said Friday.

The network used that same phrase to describe Alan Alda's character, a Republican senator from California, when it was announced that the "M.A.S.H." veteran would appear on the White House drama.

New cast members without presidential aspirations are Marley Shelton ("Uptown Girls") and Mary McCormack (USA's "Traffic"), who turn their guest roles from last season into a full-time jobs during the show's upcoming sixth season.

Smits has gotten into politics before. He played an Alderaan senator in "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones" and will reprise the role in Episode III's "Revenge of the Sith" in 2005.

## 'Star Trek' fans honor James Doohan in LA

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Hundreds of "Star Trek" fans showed up to see James Doohan as he appeared at one last convention before retiring from public life.

The 84-year-old actor, who played "Scotty" on the '60s TV series, decided to retire after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease several months ago. He blew kisses to a crowd of Trekkie faithful gathered at Sunday's finale of a two-day tribute held at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel.

Doohan, who played the USS Enterprise's affable chief engineer, Lt. Cmdr. Montgomery "Scotty" Scott of "Beam me up, Scotty" fame, has won the goodwill of fans who say he always took time to sign autographs and talk trivia.

Many fans planned to attend Tuesday's ceremony honoring Doohan with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The event was expected to be his final public appearance.

"We're just very proud to honor dad with this star," said his son, Chris Doohan. "A lot of 'Star Trek' fans helped us out with this."



## Dawson arrested near GOP protests

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Actress Rosario Dawson of the movies "Kids" and "Shattered Glass" was arrested near the route of anti-Republican protests after she refused to get off the road, authorities said Monday.

Dawson, 25, of Los Angeles, was filming a movie called "This Revolution," according to published reports. She was taken into custody at midday Sunday about a block from the site of the Republican National Convention in Madison Square Garden, authorities said.

The movie's director, Stephen Marshall, 36, of Toronto, also was arrested, the Manhattan district attorney's office said.

According to the criminal complaint, Dawson and Marshall were spotted in a road with about 30 people gathered around them. She and another person were wearing handkerchiefs as masks with only their eyes showing.

A police officer told Dawson and the other person that they had to leave the roadway, the complaint said, but they reportedly refused. Marshall reportedly tried to show police his city film permit but was arrested anyway.

Each was charged with two counts of disorderly conduct and one charge of obstructing governmental administration. They were released without bail and told to return to court Nov. 9.

Dawson

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Michael Moore draws boos at convention

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Already a box office sensation, filmmaker Michael Moore got another loud reception Monday at the Republican convention. This time, it was boos.

When Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told the delegates about "a disingenuous film maker who would have us believe that Saddam's Iraq was an oasis of peace," they knew he was referring to the maker of "Fahrenheit 9-11." The film, which savages Bush's Iraq policy, has set a box office record for documentaries, grossing \$115 million so far.

McCain's comments prompted prolonged booing and chants of "Four more years." Many of the delegates faced Moore, who was seated in the press seats at Madison Square Garden because he is writing a column this week for USA Today.

Moore seemed to relish the attention, thrusting his arms over his head, laughing and saying, "Two more months."

### Grammer, wife have son via surrogate mom

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer and his wife, former Playboy model Camille Donatacci, are the parents of a boy born Saturday through a surrogate mother.

Jude Gordon Grammer weighed

7-pounds, 11-ounces at birth at 4:11 a.m. Saturday in Sacramento, Grammer's publicist Stan Rosenfield said. The infant is now in Los Angeles with his parents, who married seven years ago.

"They are happy and healthy," Rosenfield said.

The couple's daughter, Mason Olivia, was born to a surrogate mother in October 2001.

### 'Indian Larry' said killed at bike show

**CONCORD, N.C.** (AP)—A custom motorcycle builder known for his appearances on cable's Discovery Channel died Monday at a hospital of head injuries suffered during a stunt, officials said.

"Indian Larry" fell off a motorcycle Saturday while performing before 8,000 people at an arena outside Charlotte. He was not wearing a helmet, the officials said.

Indian Larry was standing on the moving bike when it began to wobble and went out of control, said Mike Downs, Cabarrus County deputy manager. His full name was not immediately known.

"Indian Larry was a man with great skill and talent as a mechanic and metal sculptor," said Robert Freeman, chairman of the county board of commissioners. "He will be truly missed by his fans here in Cabarrus County and throughout the nation."

Indian Larry, who appeared in movies and television shows, was featured on a Discovery Channel

series in which motorcycle builders design and build bikes from scratch, then have them judged by motorcycle aficionados.

### 'Major Dad' star McRaney has lung surgery

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"Major Dad" actor Gerald McRaney underwent surgery Monday to remove a cancerous growth from his lung, his Los Angeles publicist told The Associated Press.

McRaney, 56, had the surgery at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

The actor is a longtime smoker. "I'm sure that he will plan to quit," McRaney spokesman Henri Bollinger told the AP.

The growth was detected during a physical examination McRaney underwent before minor knee surgery two weeks ago. Although the lung growth was malignant, the actor's doctor said it was detected at an early stage, Bollinger said.

McRaney will remain in the hospital for several days before returning to his Los Angeles home next week where he is expected to begin work on the new TV series "Commando Nanny," which begins airing in September on the WB network.

Although McRaney played the no-nonsense military man on the long-running sitcom "Major Dad," in the new show he co-stars as a Beverly Hills tycoon who hires a British special-forces commando to babysit his three children.

## Man's secret stash of love letters has uncertain future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** My problem concerns what to do with a group of snapshots and a bundle of about 100 old love letters that I've hidden for more than 50 years. If they are found after my death, my heirs will be shocked.

I have treasured these mementos in my heart since I received the first, before I was shipped overseas in World War II. The letters continued up to December 1947—and in '98 and '99 I received three more that were ultra-special. They are the sincerest of love letters from the girl in the photographs.

Family interference separated us, even as we were planning to be married. Of course, life went on. I met my wife and we were married a few years later, but I could never bring myself to destroy the letters or the photographs.

After half a century, I searched and found my first love. Then in 1999 we were able to locate our son, who was born and placed for adoption after we were separated. The three of us have spent some special time together. Even though we acknowledged that our love was and still is true, we agreed not to upset my marriage.

My wife knows all about this, and accepts my strong need to financially help my "other girl" have a comfortable lifestyle. I love my wife. She is and always will come first in my life. Yet those photos and letters are precious to me.

Genealogically, they are vital family memorabilia, and without anyone knowing, I have placed them with five generations of saved items. They represent an important part of my life with my first love. I cannot find the courage to let them go. Have I done wrong?

### IN LOVE WITH TWO EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

**DEAR IN LOVE:** Not from my perspective. This is the 21st century—not the 1940s. Perhaps it's time to let your children know about their half-brother. After all, this happened before you even met your wife.

An alternative would be to put the keepsakes in a safe deposit box and give one of the keys to your lawyer, with instructions to mail them to your love child after your death. I'm sure your son would treasure having evidence of the love through which he was conceived.

**DEAR ABBY:** Seven years ago, my husband's "Aunt Selma" lent us \$2,000 on our first home. We set up a payment plan and paid her faithfully.

A year later, our first child was born with a heart condition. Aunt Selma came to us and demanded that instead of paying her, we put the money toward the enormous hospital bills. We tried to refuse, but she insisted.

There was never any paperwork, just words spoken out of love—until recently. Now she wants us to pay back the rest of the money. After all this time, I don't feel that's fair. This is causing a lot of stress in our marriage, and I need some guidance. Please help.

### INDIGNANT IN INDIANA

**DEAR INDIGNANT:** When you ran into financial hardship because of your child, Aunt Selma tried to lessen your burden. Please don't repay her generosity by withholding her money. She may be asking for it because she needs it now. So reinstate the payment plan and give her what she's due—and I don't mean just the money.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents* is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby*, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



*Dear Abby*



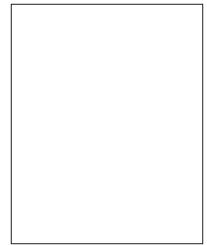
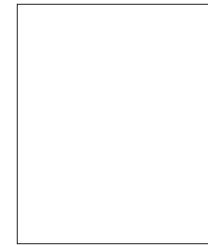












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